



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Orleans Parish Demolition Company pleads guilty to illegal dumping in New Orleans East

BATON ROUGE – A guilty plea was entered yesterday at the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court by J & L Demolition and Dumpsters, LLC, a demolition and disposal business located at 9330 Chef Menteur Highway in New Orleans East. The company was cited for illegal disposal of solid waste stemming from a multi-agency compliance operation that began in the fall of 2010.

In that operation, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the city of New Orleans and inspected nearly 40 sites along the Almonaster Boulevard and Old Gentilly Road corridor in New Orleans East. These sites were targeted because previous inspections showed that the most egregious offenders were not complying with environmental regulations.

During the course of this ongoing compliance effort, investigators from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Criminal Investigation Division conducted surveillance at 11300 block of Old Gentilly Road and caught employees of J & L Demolition illegally disposing of solid waste at the property. On August 10, 2012, investigators from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Criminal Investigation Division issued a misdemeanor summons for the illegal disposal of solid waste to John Stephen Fender, owner of J & L Demolition.

As part of plea agreement, J & L Demolition was sentenced to 2 years of probation, ordered to pay a criminal fine of \$10,000, ordered to pay \$1,060 for costs of prosecution, and ordered to remove the solid waste from the dumpsite. Fender was sentenced to 2 years of probation and ordered to pay a criminal fine of \$2,000. The Honorable Judge Keva Landrum-Johnson of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court presided. The case was prosecuted by District Attorney Leon A. Cannizarro, Jr., and special assistant Mike Daniels from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Criminal Investigation Division.

“When people try to save money by illegally dumping, they should think about the possible fines, jail time and the cost for the cleanup,” said Peggy Hatch, DEQ Secretary. “The consequences outweigh the benefits and this is a perfect example of agencies working together to ensure those who show disregard to environmental laws pay the price.”

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents may contact the department at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.